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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 13 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in February 1998.

1 February 1998

At 1025 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area firing air-to-surface missiles.

At 1220 hours the southern outskirts of Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery fire. Two mortar shells fell near residential localities, and three persons were wounded and a number of dwellings were damaged.

At 1230 hours clashes erupted in the Tumat Niha area of Jazzin district between Lahad militia elements and men of the Lebanese Resistance in which all types of weapons were used. Calm was restored at about 1330 hours.

2 February 1998

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks there came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0945 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 0950 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Kafr Fila and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1200 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area of Jazzin district grew tense and clashes erupted between Israeli and Lahad militia forces on the one hand and men of the Lebanese National Resistance on the other. All types of weapons were used, and several shells fell on Rayhan town and damaged a number of dwellings.

At 1900 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire and received bursts of fire from other weapons.

3 February 1998

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah and Izziyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0930 hours Israeli forces closed the Kafr Hunah - Marj Uyun crossing.

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 1455 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills in Shuf district at medium altitudes.

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Luwayzah, Jba' and Ayn Qana and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2200 hours a number of artillery shells fell in the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

4 February 1998

At 0940 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1020 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Dayr al-Qamar at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1430 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes carrying out mock attacks and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Saydun in Western Bekaa district.

At 1630 hours hostile aircraft bombarded the Zillaya water system along the Litani River.

At 2030 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under artillery fire and received bursts of fire from other weapons fired from enemy positions.

5 February 1998

At 1630 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Ayn Qana and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1800 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire.

6 February 1998

At 1200 hours Yatar and its outlying areas came under Israeli artillery fire. One person, Nazim Qaduh, was seriously wounded and many dwellings were damaged.

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah, Izziyah and Qulaylah came under Israeli artillery fire. It continued until 0800 hours.

7 February 1998

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Sadaqa, Ayta al-Jabal, Majdal Silm and Tulin came under Israeli artillery fire. One person was injured and many dwellings were damaged.

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm and Siddiqin in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire. It continued for one hour.

At 0830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

8 February 1998

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

10 February 1998

At 1130 hours towns of Luwayzah and Mlikh and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

11 February 1998

At 1315 hours outlying areas of Libbaya in Western Bekaa district came under intermittent artillery fire.

12 February 1998

At 1110 hours Israeli warplanes flew over the Nabatiyah area and over Janta, Yahfufa and Nabi Shit in Baalbek district at low altitudes. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

13 February 1998

At 1030 hours hostile aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire. It was calculated that some 15 artillery shells of miscellaneous calibre fell there.

At 2150 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman came under Israeli artillery fire.

14 February 1998

At 2300 hours a rocket-propelled projectile fell on a dwelling in Shihin, Tyre district, and five persons were wounded.

Kafr Rumman came under hostile bombardment that affected residential areas and damaged many dwellings.

At 1145 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Kafr Rumman was resumed. It extended to the Habbush vicinity.

At 1240 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Humin al-Fawqa, areas along the Zahrani River and the Habbush bridge came under Israeli artillery fire. One person was wounded.

At 2200 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 February 1998

At 1500 hours elements of the militia of the client Lahad proceeded to detain two residents of Sha'ba in Hasbayya district.

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Jumayjimah and Sawwanah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1410 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

17 February 1998

At 0000 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery fire.

20 February 1998

At 0000 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0100 hours a Palestinian was wounded when an Israeli helicopter strafed an outlying area of Jibal al-Butm.

23 February 1998

At 1240 hours Israeli warplanes flew over the South at high altitudes.

At 1725 hours Israeli forces and the militia of the client Lahad fired a number of mortar shells that fell along the Nab' al-Tasah and in the vicinity of Mazra'at Uqmata.

At 1850 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the Tyre and Tibnin areas and over the sea at different altitudes.

24 February 1998

At 0345 hours an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at a civilian vehicle travelling along a secondary road in Majdal Silm.

At 1140 hours the militia of the client Lahad strafed areas around its position on Anan hill with medium-weapons fire.

At 1320 hours Israeli forces fired three shells at Jabal Ayn al-Tinah from their position in Tumat Jazzin.

At 1320 hours the militia of the client Lahad fired a number of artillery shells from its position in Zafatah. They fell in outlying areas of Jba' and Mazra'at Kafra.

At 1330 hours the militia of the client Lahad fired a number of artillery shells from its position in Zafatah. They fell in outlying areas of Jba' and Mazra'at Kafra.

At 1605 hours the militia of the client Lahad prevented the inhabitants of Hula, Mays al-Jabal, Blida and Aytrun from going out to the liberated areas.

At 2035 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

At 2130 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Qulaylah fired a number of medium-weapons bursts in various directions.

25 February 1998

At 1125 hours Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the South at high altitudes.

At 1205 hours Israeli and Lahad militia forces fired a number of artillery shells from their positions in Shuray'ah, Ksarat al-Arus, Tall Ya'qub, Tall Sujud and Jabal Balat at Mazra'at Uqmata, Wadi Basil and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah.

At 1335 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Jabal Bir al-Dahr.

At 1845 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri fired a number of bursts.

At 2115 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

At 2145 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

At 0100 hours the Lahad militia fired a mortar shell from Sujud hill. It fell on Jabal Safi.

26 February 1998

At 0115 hours Israeli forces fired a number of mortar shells from their position in Ksarat al-Arus. They fell in Mazra'at Uqmata.

At 0150 hours occupation forces fired a number of illumination flares from their position in Qal'at al-Shaqif (Chateau de Beaufort) over areas along the Litani River towards Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

At 0500 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Mansuri fired a number of bursts.

At 0615 hours occupation forces and the militia of the client Lahad on Dabshah hill fired a number of shells. They fell on the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah.

At 0740 hours occupation forces at Abu Qamhah fired 16 artillery shells towards Jabal Bir al-Dahr.

At 1640 hours occupation forces and the militia of the client Lahad fired a number of artillery shells and bursts of fire from other weapons from their positions at Tall Ya'qub, Jabal Balat and Ksarat al-Arus and on Sujud hill at

outlying areas of Yatar, Jibal al-Butm, Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Izziyah, Zibqin, Jarju', Arabsalim and Humin al-Fawqa, areas along the Nab' al-Tasah, Jabal al-Rafi' and areas around Sujud hill.

At 1935 hours the militia of the client Lahad strafed the areas around its position at Dahr al-Mashnaqah with medium-weapons fire.

At 2110 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

At 2215 hours elements from the militia of the client Lahad on Anan hill threw hand-grenades into the surrounding area.

At 2250 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at high altitude.

27 February 1998

At 0300 hours the militia of the client Lahad strafed the area around its position on Rum hill with medium-weapons fire.

At 0400 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off Qulaylah fired a number of bursts in various directions.

At 1620 hours enemy forces and the militia of the client Lahad fired a number of mortar shells from their positions in Ksarat al-Arus and on Sujud hill. They fell on Mazra'at Uqmata.

28 February 1998

At 0650 hours the Lahad militia fired a number of shells and bursts of machine-gun fire from its position on Rum hill towards Mu'aytah.

At 0740 hours enemy forces fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position on Dabshah hill at the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah.

At 0755 hours Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells from Abu Qamhah towards the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 0955 hours the Lahad militia fired a number of shells from Razlan hill and Shaqif. They fell on Jabal Safi.

At 1335 hours the militia of the client Lahad fired some bursts towards Wadi Mimis from its position in Ayn Qinya.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and the fresh attacks and arbitrary practices against the civilian Lebanese population that have left a number of wounded and caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes

and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative